Dead Man Not Inv Probe Figure Says

From Our Wire Services

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 23. — Another figure in District Attorney Jim Garrison's investigation of the assassination of President Kennedy showed up in Garrison's office Thursday. He said David W. Ferrie, the

"What would be the purpose of seeking Federal aid?" he said at one point. "To delay the investigation three more years? We've done more in three months with a small staff than the Government did in three years with 5000 men."

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olved in Assassination Plot, Oswald

airline pilot found dead Wednesday, was not one of the "possible members" of a conspiracy Garrison believes existed in New Orleans.

DROPS FROM SIGHT

David Lewis, 26, who handles baggage at a Continental Trailways bus depot and claims to have been a private detective who knew "four or five" members of a 1963 plot against the President, dropped out of sight Wednesday night.

He showed up again late Thursday morning at Garrison's office to say he did not believe Ferrie was one of the group he knew.

The nude body of Ferrie, a 49-year-old former Eastern Air Lines pilot, was found in his apartment Wednesday.

Garrison used the occasion to call a news conference and declare the dead man was "involved in the events culminating in the assassination of President Kennedy."

MURDER RULED OUT

Dr. Nicholas Chetta, Orleans Parish coroner, ruled out murder in Ferrie's death. Chetta said he made the decision because there was no evidence of tissue damage which would have resulted if the brain hemorrhage that caused death had been due to a blow.

The district attorney already had said Ferrie's death apparently was suicide. But there was no official ruling as to whether the hemorrhage was natural or had been caused by a drug.

The coroner's toxological report, which could shed more light on the cause of death, will take a week to complete.

NO RELATIVES SHOW UP

Chetta said pills in more than 15 bottles found in Ferrie's apartment could not have combined to produce the hemorrhage, even if taken in overdoses.

No relatives had as yet turned up to claim Ferrie's body.

There were varying reports of the time of Ferrie's death, a discrepancy which Garrison termed "one of the mysteries" of the investigation.

A Washington Post reporter, George Lardner, Jr., said he interviewed Ferrie from 11 P. M. Tuesday until nearly 4 A. M. Wednesday and Ferrie "was certainly living when I said good-by to him."

Ferrie, a bookish person of startling appearance, had his hair and eyebrows burned off in an explosion and wore a toupee and mascara. He was mentioned several times in the Warren Report but never linked with the assassination.

OFFERS NEW DATA

American lawyer Mark Lane, a leading critic of the Warren Commission version of the assassination, said in Paris the death of Ferrie "may break the case wide open."

Lane said he would telephone new information on the New Orleans aspect of the assassination to Garrison.

Part of the information Lane said he would send to Garrison concerned Mrs. Sylvia Olympio, an anti-Castro Cuban who said, according to Lane, that a man looking like alleged assassin Lee Harvey Oswald spoke of assassinating President Kennedy two months before Mr. Kennedy was shot. Oswald, Lane quoted her as saying, was accompanied by two Cubans when he made the threat.

The Warren Commission investigation showed Ferrie and his plane were in New Orleans at the time Mr. Kennedy was shot in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963. A New Orleans policeman subsequently told the commision he thought the plane was in no condition to fly.

Garrison has refused to cooperate with Federal authorities throughout the investigation.